

## **TERRITORIAL:**

### **James Miller**

Born: April 25, 1776, at Peterborough, New Hampshire

Died: July 7, 1851, at Temple, New Hampshire

Buried: Temple, New Hampshire (pres.)

Served: 1819-1825

James Miller, Arkansas's first territorial governor, was educated for the law but in 1808 entered the United States army as major and was made lieutenant-colonel in 1810. He distinguished himself during the War of 1812 at the battle of Lundy's Lane; for this service he was brevetted brigadier-general, and received a gold medal from Congress. He was appointed governor of Arkansas in 1819 and held that post until 1825. Miller was slow to arrive in Arkansas after his appointment and spent much time out of the territory, but during his administration the foundations of the territorial government were laid: courts and jails were established, property tax assessment procedures put in place and voting by voice rather than by ballot established for general elections. During the Miller administration the territorial capitol was removed from Arkansas Post to Little Rock. Ill health and, probably, a disinclination toward frontier life led Miller to resign the governorship but he subsequently regained his health and served as customs collector of the port of Salem, Massachusetts, from 1825 until 1849.

### **George Izard**

Born: October 21, 1776, at London, England

Died: October 22, 1828, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock (reinterred 1843; original grave site unknown)

Served: 1825-1829

George Izard, Arkansas' second territorial governor, emigrated with his family to the United States at the age of sixteen. Trained first as a lawyer, then as a military engineer, Izard served with competence during the War of 1812; one historian notes that Izard "was the only officer of the war of 1812 who had been completely educated in the schools." General Izard resigned from the army in January 1815, lived with his family in Philadelphia and was appointed governor of Arkansas in 1825. His service as governor was uneventful; the territory's militia was organized and the Choctaw and Quapaw nations relocated to the Indian Territory but little else distinguished the Izard administrations. Izard made few friends in Arkansas, preferring to spend his time with his extensive library and his collection of razors. Izard died during his second term from complications following an attack of gout.

### **John Pope**

Born: 1770, in Prince William County, Virginia

Died: July 12, 1845, at Springfield, Kentucky

Buried: Springfield (Kentucky) Cemetery

Served: 1829-1835

John Pope was brought to Kentucky in boyhood. He lost one arm through a farm accident, thus forcing a change of life plans. Pope settled on the study of law and was admitted to the Kentucky bar in 1794. He was for several years a member of the Kentucky state house of representatives, and in 1807 was elected to the United States Senate as a Democrat, serving from 1807 until 1813. During the 1820s he remained active in politics, notably as a friend and supporter of Andrew Jackson. In 1829 Pope received the governorship of Arkansas from the Jackson administration. During his service, Pope advocated "internal improvements"—that is, road-building—and attracted

notice for his veto in 1831 of a bill which would have transferred land granted the territory for the construction of a territorial courthouse or capitol, to territorial secretary Robert Crittenden in exchange for Crittenden's already-built mansion house. Pope insisted that the seat of government be located in the heart of Little Rock's business district, on a bluff overlooking the Arkansas River. After his term, Pope returned to Kentucky where he practiced law until he was again elected to Congress, and twice re-elected, serving from 1837 until 1843.

### **William Savin Fulton**

Born: June 2, 1795, in Cecil County, Maryland

Died: August 15, 1844, at "Rosewood", near Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1835-1836

William Savin Fulton studied law and served during the War of 1812 as an aide on the staff of Colonel Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry. After the war, he returned briefly to the law before becoming private secretary to General Andrew Jackson during his campaign against the Seminoles of Florida. At its close he settled in Alabama for the practice of the law. In 1829 President Jackson appointed Fulton secretary of the territory of Arkansas, and in 1835 its governor, which office he held until the territory became a state. During Fulton's brief governorship he courted controversy by opposing the drafting of a proposed state constitution without prior approval by Congress. Over his objections the document was drafted, adopted by the constitutional convention, then submitted to Congress; it was approved, after hot debate. Fulton was then chosen as one of Arkansas's first U. S. senators, serving from December 1836 until his death.

## **STATE GOVERNORS**

### **James Sevier Conway**

Born: December 4 1796, in Greene County, Tennessee

Died: March 3 1855, at Walnut Hill Plantation, Lafayette County, Arkansas

Buried: Family cemetery, Walnut Hill (Conway Cemetery State Historical Park)

Served: 1836-1840

James Sevier Conway arrived in Arkansas in 1820 as a surveyor. In 1823, he bought a farm along the Red River, in what would become Lafayette County. In 1825, Conway was appointed to survey the western boundary of Arkansas from the Red River to the Arkansas River. In 1831, Conway served as Arkansas's commissioner in negotiations with Louisiana setting the states' common boundary. In 1832 when the office of Arkansas Surveyor was created, he was appointed to the post. and in 1836 he was elected Governor of Arkansas. As governor, Conway called for internal improvements and public education, supported legislative efforts to create a state banking system and worked to obtain federal protection against Native American raiding on the state's western marches. He successfully lobbied for the establishment of a government arsenal at Little Rock. Numerous controversies connected with the state militia, the proposed state banking system and other issues beset the Conway administration; these, combined with a deteriorating state economy and Conway's ill-health, probably contributed to his decision to not stand for re-election. After serving his one term of four years, he retired to Walnut Hill, his cotton plantation along the Red River. He remained active in politics and civic affairs, helping establish the Lafayette Academy in his home county(1842).

**Archibald Yell**

Born: ?1799, in Jefferson County, Tennessee (disputed)

Died: February 23 1847, at Buena Vista, Mexico

Buried: Evergreen Cemetery, Fayetteville (originally buried at Saltillo, Mexico; reinterred at Waxhaws Cemetery, Fayetteville and subsequently removed to Evergreen Cemetery)

Served: 1840-1844

Archibald Yell, Arkansas's second state governor, was probably born in east Tennessee in 1797 or 1799. He served with Andrew Jackson against the Cherokees in 1813-14 and against the British at New Orleans in 1814-15. In Tennessee he read law and was admitted to the bar, but he returned in 1818 to Jackson's army for service against the Seminoles in Florida, where his courage won the admiration of "Old Hickory." Yell served a term in the Tennessee legislature and then received several federal appointments from Jackson, beginning in December 21, 1831, with the directorship of the federal land office in Little Rock. Yell was elected to the House of Representatives when Arkansas was admitted to statehood in 1836 and served until 1839. Yell ran for, and won, the Arkansas governor's seat in 1840. In office, he demanded stronger control of banks but also recommended a board of internal improvements and supported public education. In 1844 Yell resigned in order to run again for Congress. In this campaign he demonstrated that he could be all things to all people. During one morning of the campaign, he won a shooting match, donated the beef to the poorest widow in the community, and ordered a jug of whiskey for the crowd. That same day he led the singing at a camp meeting a few miles up the road. He won the election easily.

He served from 1 December, 1845, till 1 July, 1846, when he resigned to join the army in Mexico. He was mustered into the service as colonel of the 1st Arkansas Volunteer Cavalry, and was killed by a Mexican lancer while rallying his demoralized troops at the battle of Buena Vista.

**Thomas Stevenson Drew**

Born: August 22(?) 1802, in Wilson County, Tennessee

Died: January (n.d.) 1879, at Lapin, Texas

Buried: Pocahontas, Arkansas (reinterred May 30, 1923)

Served: 1844-1849

Thomas S. Drew arrived in Arkansas in 1817, supporting himself by working as a traveling pedlar and sometime school teacher. During the 1820s, he became active in politics and postal delivery. An advantageous marriage in 1827 occasioned Drew's entry into farming but he remained active in Democratic party politics. In 1844, Drew was the consensus candidate of a badly divided party. Elected by a plurality, Drew supported a safe platform of internal improvements, modest aid to education and fiscal conservatism made necessary by the state's failing finances. Drew was re-elected in 1848 without any serious opposition but resigned in January 1849, complaining of the office's low salary. During the 1850s, Drew sought to repair his personal insolvency. He served briefly as Superintendent of Indian Affairs at Fort Smith, before returning to law. Drew suffered financial reverses during and immediately after the Civil War, but resumed the practice of law in the late 1860s in Pocahontas. Following his wife's death in 1872, Drew moved to Texas where he died; his remains were returned to Pocahontas in 1923.

**John Selden Roane**

Born: January 8 1817, in Wilson County, Tennessee

Died: April 7 1867, at Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Buried: Oakland Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1849-1852

Native Tennessean John S. Roane migrated to Arkansas in 1837, studied law and was admitted to the bar that same year. He served as prosecuting attorney for the Second Judicial District from 1840 to 1842, and was a member of the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1842 to 1846. In that year, Roane organized and led a company of volunteers from the Van Buren for the Mexican-American War. Roane's lack of any military experience made him an ineffective commander; at the battle of Buena Vista (February 22-23, 1847) Roane's command performed poorly under fire. After the war's end, criticism of Arkansas regiment (commanded by Archibald Yell, who was succeeded by Roane after Yell's death at Buena Vista) and its performance under fire followed Roane; accusations of incompetence levelled by Albert Pike led to an inconsequential duel between the two political rivals in July of 1847. Due to Governor Thomas S. Drew's resignation in January 1849 a special election was called; on April 19, Roane was elected Arkansas's fourth governor. During his term, both Calhoun and Sebastian counties were created. Roane also advocated programs for internal improvements, and increased funding for education. After a frustrating administration, Roane left office on November 15, 1852, returning to his law practice. During the Civil War, he served as brigadier general in the Confederate army. John Selden Roane died suddenly in April 1867 and is buried at the Oakland Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas.

### **Elias Nelson Conway**

Born: May 17, 1812, at Greeneville Tennessee

Died: February 28, 1892, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas

Served: 1852-1860

Brother to Arkansas's first governor, Elias Conway was born at Greenville, Tennessee, on May 17, 1812. He moved with his family to Missouri in 1818. In 1833 Conway moved to Little Rock, studied surveying was appointed U.S. Deputy Surveyor, and served as Arkansas' auditor from 1835 to 1849. Conway declined the 1844 Democratic gubernatorial nomination, but accepted it in 1852. He was sworn into office on November 15, 1852, as Arkansas's fifth governor, and was reelected to a second term in 1856. During his administration, the office of state geologist was created, major improvements were made to the state's roads and also in the state penitentiary, and large land grants were given to the state's nascent railroad system. His greatest accomplishment was restoring the state's solvency, which he did by creating a court of chancery to settle the affairs of the ill-managed state Real-Estate Bank. Despite a huge remaining bonded indebtedness, the treasury held a cash surplus when Conway left office on November 16, 1860. After leaving office Conway retired from public life. His death in 1892 brought an end to the "family dynasty" of Johnsons, Conways, and Seviars that had been a conspicuous feature of pre-Civil War Arkansas politics

### **Henry Massie Rector**

Born: May 1 1816, at Fountain Ferry, Kentucky

Died: August 12, 1899, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas

Served: 1860-1862

Born and educated in Kentucky, Henry Rector relocated to Arkansas in 1835 to manage lands he had inherited from his father, a land surveyor and speculator. In 1842, Rector was appointed U.S. marshal for Arkansas and in 1848 was elected to the state Senate. through the 1850s, Rector remained active in politics and the law; in 1859 he was elected to the state's Supreme Court. In 1860, Rector stood for governor and won against a candidate fielded by the Johnson-Conway-

Sevier "Family" political machine. In office, Rector proved a reluctant secessionist, although he authorized the seizure of U.S. arsenals in Little Rock and Fort Smith. After the secession vote of May 6 1861, Rector headed the state's mobilization, cooperating with the ardent secessionists of the "Family." In October 1862, Rector campaigned once more for governor (the constitution adopted by the Secession Convention in 1861 had shortened the governor's term to two years). Rector lost the election and on November 3 1862 submitted his resignation to the Legislature. During the war, Rector served as a private soldier in the state's reserve corps. After the war, Rector returned to cotton farming and served in the Constitutional Convention of 1874.

### **Harris Flanagin**

Born: November 3, 1817, at Roadstown, New Jersey

Died: October 23, 1874, at Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Buried: Rose Hill Cemetery, Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Served: 1862-1864

Son of an Irish-born cabinetmaker, Harris Flanagin taught mathematics and studied law in Pennsylvania before relocating to Arkansas in 1839. Settling in Arkadelphia, he practiced law, speculated in land and briefly dabbled in politics during the 1840s and 50s. He was selected to the secession convention in 1861 and although a reluctant rebel, became captain of a company of the Second Arkansas Mounted Rifles, seeing action in the battles of Pea Ridge and Wilson's Creek. In the summer of 1862, Flanagin was promoted as a gubernatorial candidate by former Unionists, Whigs and Democrats unhappy with the clumsiness of the Rector administration. Flanagin did little to promote his own candidacy, but won handily. Once in office, Flanagin urged the legislature to come to the aid of soldiers' families, to stabilize the state's finances and to suppress profiteering and illicit liquor-making but generally took a passive approach to exercising executive powers. In 1863, as Union forces advanced upon Little Rock, Flanagin simply went home to Arkadelphia, assuming that his duties were finished. He was recalled by Confederate authorities, however, and presided over the Legislature's 1864 session in Washington. At the end of the war Flanagin worked to insure an orderly return to peacetime conditions, returning to his law practice. In 1874 he served as a delegate to the state's constitutional convention, but died before its final ratification.

### **Isaac Murphy**

Born: October 16, 1799, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Died: September 8, 1882, at Huntsville, Arkansas

Buried: Unknown location

Served: 1864-1868

A native of western Pennsylvania, Murphy was educated at Washington College, later practicing law and teaching school in Pennsylvania and Tennessee. In 1834 Murphy and his family relocated to Fayetteville, where he established himself as a school teacher, surveyor, and lawyer. Murphy was elected to the General Assembly of Arkansas two times as the representative from Washington County in 1846 and 1848, later relocating to Huntsville.. In 1861, Murphy was selected for the Secession Convention. Murphy was ultimately the only delegate to vote in favor of staying in the Union. Upon the fall of Little Rock an election was held with the approval of President Lincoln and Murphy was elected governor. During the Murphy administration Arkansas began healing its war wounds even as the war continued in the southern parts of the State. Murphy took a low-key approach to governance and stated publicly that "We have all done wrong." By the start of 1866 Murphy's plans began to erode: The elections of 1866 saw a pro-Confederate legislature elected

which increased Murphy's problems dramatically. Murphy decided to remain in office and worked for the best interests of the State while taking abuse from both sides. When Murphy left office his administration left a budget surplus even though his administration had begun with no funds. This surplus evaporated soon after his successor took office. Murphy returned to Huntsville and took up farming and practicing law once again and lived a quiet life with his family. On 8 September 1882 Murphy died unexpectedly at his home. Even former Confederates remembered him fondly in later years and textbooks that berated the "carpetbagger governments" reserved kind words for Isaac Murphy.

### **Powell Clayton**

Born: August 7, 1833, in Bethel County, Pennsylvania

Died: August 25, 1914, at Washington, D.C.

Buried: Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C.

Served: 1868-1871

Powell Clayton, a native of Pennsylvania, arrived in Arkansas in 1863 as a young Union cavalry officer. He bought property near Pine Bluff and remained in Arkansas after the war's end.

Clayton was instrumental in the founding of the Arkansas Republican party and in 1868 was its candidate for governor. The gubernatorial election in that year was conducted with the referendum on ratifying the state's first Reconstruction constitution (which restored the governor's term of office to four years); on March 26 the people voted and on April 1 Clayton was confirmed as governor. In office, Clayton used patronage effectively to build a wider partisan base, putting Republicans into appointive offices whenever possible. During his service the Legislature enacted many significant measures, including levee and roads improvements, swamp reclamation, establishment of free public schools and schools for the deaf and the blind, as well as a prohibition of racial discrimination in transportation, housing, education and restaurants.

Clayton's administration is better remembered, however, for controversies such as the declaration of martial law by the governor in response to the rise of the Ku Klux Klan, accusations of corruption in state aid to railroads, and bitter factional fighting within the newborn Republican Party. In 1871, Clayton sought and gained a U.S. Senate seat from Arkansas. At the end of his term Clayton returned to Arkansas and the leadership of the state Republican party, controlling federal patronage in the state and effectively establishing the tradition of "Post Office Republicanism." In 1897 Clayton was appointed ambassador to the Republic of Mexico and served until 1905, when he resigned and retired to Washington D.C. where he died at the age of eighty-one.

### **Elisha Baxter**

Born: September 1, 1827, in Rutherford County, North Carolina

Died: May 31, 1899, at Batesville, Arkansas

Buried: Oak Lawn Cemetery, Batesville, Arkansas

Served: 1873-1874

Elisha Baxter, a merchant, settled in Arkansas in 1852. During the 1850s Baxter read law and became involved in Democratic Party politics, serving in the state legislature and as a prosecuting attorney. During the Civil War Baxter was a lukewarm Unionist; after the war, he helped establish the new Republican party and was rewarded with political appointments. Baxter's rise to prominence resulted from factional fighting within the Republican party; in 1872, the "regular" Republicans were challenged by an insurgent movement opposed to party corruption at the national level and to Powell Clayton's harsh executive style as governor. The insurgent, or

“Brindletail” faction’s gubernatorial candidate was Joseph Brooks, an Iowa-born “carpetbagger.” Baxter was chosen as the “Regular” candidate and in the election of 1872 the official, though widely disputed, vote count favored Baxter who was declared the winner. Once in office, Baxter sought to conciliate his old opponents, Republicans and Democrats alike, but could not silence challenges to the legitimacy of his election. His overtures to Democrats, plus a controversial refusal to issue railroad bonds, united Republican opposition toward this Republican governor. In April 1874 Baxter was physically removed from the State House and Brooks was sworn in as Governor by the chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In the month that followed, the two governors’ supporters clashed but ultimately President U.S. Grant upheld Baxter’s legitimacy in office. He returned to the State House on May 15 to finish his term. In the summer of 1874 a new constitution was drafted and submitted to voters, one which once again shortened the governor’s term to two years. Baxter was twice offered and twice refused the 1874 Democratic-Conservative gubernatorial nomination. He remained slightly active in politics for a few years more but ultimately retired to his farm near Batesville where he practiced law until his death.

### **Augustus Hill Garland**

Born: June 11, 1832, in Tipton County, Tennessee

Died: January 26, 1899, in Washington, D.C.

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1874-1877

Arkansas’s twelfth governor was born in Tennessee and graduated from St. Joseph’s College, Bardstown Kentucky, in 1849. He was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 1853. Garland was a delegate to the 1861 Secession Convention and to the Provisional Congress. He served in the Confederate States’ House of Representatives from 1861 to 1864 and the Confederate Senate from 1864 to 1865. In 1867 Garland was elected to the U.S. Senate, but was not allowed to take his seat because Arkansas had not been readmitted to the Union. He served as deputy secretary of state, supported the 1874 Constitutional Convention and was elected Governor of Arkansas in 1874. During his single term, he was faced with the state’s financial problems, which he substantially reduced by the time he left office. He implemented legislation that led to the creation of the Branch Normal College, where black teachers were trained. He also advocated financial support for schools for the blind and deaf and led the effort which resulted in the award-winning Arkansas pavilion at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Garland did not run for reelection in 1876, but was elected to the U.S. Senate in January 1877. He served until March 1885, when he resigned his seat to become U.S. Attorney General, a position he held until 1889. Augustus H. Garland died on January 26, 1899 while arguing a case before the Supreme Court; he is buried at the Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas.

### **William Read Miller**

Born: November 23, 1823, near Batesville, Arkansas Territory

Died: November 29, 1887, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1877-1881

Miller, the first native Arkansan elected governor, studied law and entered politics in 1848, when he was elected clerk of Independence County. He served as clerk until 1854, and then was appointed state auditor. He was reelected in 1858, 1860, 1862, and again, in 1874. In 1876 Miller was elected Arkansas’s 12<sup>th</sup> governor and won a second term in 1878. During his tenure, he demonstrated a strong commitment to public education and fought for programs that addressed the state’s financial problems. His reluctance to reverse jury-determined death sentences earned

him the sobriquet of “the hanging governor.” With his support, the Legislature enacted measures to fund maintenance of the State Blind Asylum and the Arkansas Industrial University. His personal honesty and insistence on sound accounting practices led him to oppose the repudiation of much of Arkansas’s bonded indebtedness by adoption of the so-called “Fishback Amendment.” Passage was delayed, due to opposition from Miller, former governor Garland and other prominent fiscal conservatives, although the bonds were ultimately repudiated. Miller left office on January 13, 1881, and served as the deputy treasurer of Arkansas from 1881 to 1882. In 1886 he was elected state auditor and died late in the following year.

### **Thomas James Churchill**

Born: March 10, 1824, near Louisville, Kentucky

Died: May 14, 1905, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1881-1883

Thomas James Churchill, a native of Kentucky, graduated from St. Mary's College in Bardstown in 1844 and studied law at Transylvania University in Lexington. After serving in the Mexican War, he migrated to Arkansas in 1849, married the daughter of senator Ambrose Sevier and took up farming near Little Rock. He was appointed postmaster of Little Rock in 1857, serving until 1861. During the Civil War Churchill raised a regiment of cavalry for the Confederacy and in battle distinguished himself by his combination of bravery and competence. After the war he returned to law, farming and politics: a Democratic supporter of Elisha Baxter, Churchill was elected state treasurer, serving from 1874 to 1880. In 1880 he was elected Governor of Arkansas. During his term, regulations were enacted for the practice of medicine and surgery and a State Board of Health was established. Funds were approved for an insane asylum and for the construction of a new school at Pine Bluff, and short-line railroad freight and passenger rates were regulated. Several controversies, however, marred Churchill’s tenure in office. In 1881, political violence in Perry County led Churchill to direct militia to restore order there, a highly unpopular move. Also, during its 1881 session the legislature appointed a special committee to audit the records of Churchill’s tenure as state treasurer. The committee found a shortfall in the state funds, and a lawsuit was brought against Churchill. He was ordered to repay the missing money. After leaving the governor's office, Churchill retired from public life, farming and remaining active in Confederate veterans’ organizations.

### **James Henderson Berry**

Born: May 15 1841, in Jackson County, Alabama

Died: January 30, 1913, at Bentonville, Arkansas

Buried: City Cemetery, Bentonville

Served: 1883-1885

James Berry moved with his family to Arkansas in 1848, where he was educated in local schools. In 1861 Berry enlisted in the Confederate army, served as second lieutenant, was wounded, and lost his right leg in the battle of Corinth, Mississippi. After the war, Berry taught school, read law and entered politics: he was admitted to the state bar and was elected to the state House of Representatives in 1866, 1872 and 1874. In 1882 he was elected governor. During his tenure the state reduced its indebtedness, short-term loans were repaid, and some bonds were retired. Berry also pressed for collection of claims against former state officials, including his predecessor, Thomas Churchill. A racial moderate by the standards of his time, Berry personally intervened to prevent the lynching of several African-American Howard County farmers accused of murdering a



white farmer. Also during his administration, the State Hospital for Nervous Disease was established and the Arkansas Bar Association was chartered. In a less progressive development, the "Fishback Amendment" was submitted to the voters in 1884 and was ratified as Constitutional Amendment 1; under its terms the state repudiated general revenue, railroad aid and levee construction bonds sold during Reconstruction. Berry did not run for reelection and left office in January 1885, only to be selected in March to fill the vacancy created in the U.S. Senate when Senator Augustus Garland resigned. He occupied the Senate seat for the next 22 years. In 1910, he was appointed commissioner of the Arkansas History Commission and was given the assignment to mark all the graves of Confederate soldiers who had died in Union prisons. Berry completed this task in December 1912, and died the following January in his home in Bentonville.

### **Simon P. Hughes**

Born: April 14, 1830, near Carthage, Tennessee

Died: June 29, 1906, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1885-1889

Arkansas's 15th governor was born and educated in Tennessee, where he attended Clinton College. In 1849 Hughes moved to Arkansas and 1853 entered politics as sheriff of Monroe County, where he served for two years. While sheriff, Hughes studied law, was admitted to the Arkansas bar in 1857, and started a private practice in Clarendon. Although a Unionist Democrat, Hughes enlisted in the Confederate army and was commissioned as a captain, rising to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was a delegate to the 1874 Arkansas Constitutional Convention, and Arkansas' attorney general from 1874 to 1877. In 1884 Hughes was elected Governor and was reelected to a second term in 1886. During his administration, the Arkansas Industrial University was reorganized, the office of state geologist was created, and public executions were abolished. The State Debt Board was formed to help reduce the state's indebtedness without impairing its ability to conduct business and meet its current bills. Additionally, limitations were imposed on the sale of intoxicants within three miles of any school. Hughes stood for a third term but was narrowly defeated in the primary. After leaving office in 1889 he was elected to the Arkansas Supreme Court as an associate justice and reelected in 1896. He served nearly 16 years on the bench. He died in Little Rock and is buried at the Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock, Arkansas.

### **James Philip Eagle**

Born: August 10 1837, in Maurin County, Tennessee

Died: December 20, 1904, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1889-1893

Born in Tennessee, James Eagle's family moved to Pulaski County in 1839. Eagle was educated in the county schools, farmed and in 1859 was appointed deputy sheriff of Prairie County. Eagle held this position until the start of the Civil War, when he enlisted as a private, and rose later to the rank of colonel. After the war, Eagle farmed, was ordained a Baptist minister and briefly attended Mississippi College. He entered politics as a member of the Arkansas Legislature, serving from 1873 to 1878, and in 1885, he served as speaker of the house. He also served as president of the Arkansas Baptist Convention from 1880 to 1904. Eagle was nominated by the Democratic State Convention for governor in 1888, and was elected, although charges of fraud clouded his victory.

During his first term Eagle advocated more equitable taxation, effective railroad regulation, penitentiary reforms and generous support for education. Re-elected in 1890, Eagle continued to support these measures and signed into law Arkansas's "separate coach act," which mandated segregated traveling accommodations for white and black passengers. After leaving office, Eagle continued his long work with the Southern Baptist churches, retiring from the presidencies of the Arkansas Baptist and Southern Baptist Conventions in 1904. He also sat on the capital commission but was fired by Governor Jeff Davis, after being charged with campaigning for one of the governor's opponents. He died of heart failure in late 1904, in Little Rock.

### **William Meade Fishback**

Born: November 5, 1831, at Jeffersonton, Virginia

Died: February 9, 1903, at Fort Smith, Arkansas

Buried: Oak Cemetery, Fort Smith

Served: 1893-1895

William Fishback graduated from the University of Virginia in 1855, studied law, and then moved to Illinois where he was admitted to the bar in 1857. After a year of practicing law Fishback relocated to Greenwood, Arkansas, and entered into a partnership with Judge Solomon F. Clark. In 1861 he was elected as a Union sympathizer to the state convention yet voted for the secession ordinance (so, go figure!). After secession Fishback left the state, returning in 1863 to establish a Unionist newspaper and, later, recruit about 900 men for the Fourth Arkansas Cavalry. He entered politics in 1864, when he was elected to the U.S. Senate, but was not allowed to take his seat, along with several other representatives from ex-Confederate states. Fishback was a delegate to the 1874 Arkansas Constitutional Convention, and was a member of the Arkansas Legislature from 1871 to 1881. He introduced what is known as the "Fishback Amendment" to the state constitution, which prohibited the state authorities from paying on much of its bonded indebtedness, including the so-called "Holford" bonds, as well as Reconstruction-period railroad aid and levee bonds. For this advocacy, Fishback won (and bore proudly) the sobriquet of "the great repudiator." On September 5, 1892, he was elected Arkansas's 17th governor, and during his tenure, the St. Francis levee district was organized. As governor, Fishback did little to guide the Legislature, but instead sought to enhance the national image of Arkansas with the state's acclaimed pavilion at the Columbian Exposition of 1893 and other similar public relations activities. He left office in January 1895, and continued his work in promoting Arkansas's industrial growth while practicing law in Fort Smith until his death in 1903.

### **James Paul Clarke**

Born: August 19, 1854, in Yazoo County, Mississippi

Died: October 1, 1916, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Oakland Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1895-1897

Arkansas's 18<sup>th</sup> governor graduated from the University of Virginia in 1878 with a degree in law. He moved to Arkansas in 1879, and started a successful practice in Helena. He was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1886, the State Senate in 1888 and successfully sought the Attorney-Generalcy in 1892 and the governorship in 1894. During his tenure, Clarke advocated four-year terms for state and county offices, quadrennial instead of biennial sessions for the general assembly, and a constitutional provision for a tax on franchises; however, the legislature did not

pass any of these bills. Clarke met with more success in supporting railroad rate regulation and in negotiating an agreement with the federal government over debts owed it by the state of Arkansas. In addition, while known for having a volatile and sometimes violent temper, he crusaded to prevent prizefighting in Arkansas, threatening to use the militia to stop such events. Clarke did not seek reelection, but instead ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate in 1896. He ran again in 1902, and this time he was elected. Clarke won reelection in 1908, and again in 1914; he was known for his independent streak and his frequent support of progressive legislation, often at odds with the Democratic leadership.

### **Daniel Webster Jones**

Born: December 15, 1839, in Bowie County, Texas

Died: December 25 1918, in Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Oaklawn Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1897-1901

Arkansas's 19th governor was born in Texas but in 1840 his family moved to Washington, Arkansas, where Jones attended Washington Academy and later studied law. During the Civil War, Jones enlisted in the Third Arkansas (Confederate) Infantry, was wounded in battle, became a prisoner of war, and later rose to the rank of colonel. Jones finished his law studies and was admitted to the Arkansas Bar in 1865; in the next year he was named prosecuting attorney for Hempstead County. Jones was elected prosecuting attorney of the Ninth Judicial Circuit in 1874, attorney general in 1884 and 1886, and Pulaski County's representative in the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1890. In September 1896 he was elected governor. In his first term Jones supported electoral reforms, creation of a state railroad commission and construction of a separate juvenile reform school, among other measures; in most instances, the legislature's enactments fell short of Jones's suggestions. He was reelected to a second term in 1898. During his second term money was appropriated for a new state capitol, voters approved a constitutional amendment creating a state railroad commission and the legislature enacted a state-level anti-trust act. After leaving office, Jones resumed his law practice in Little Rock and was elected in 1914 to the Arkansas House of Representatives.

### **Jefferson Davis**

Born: May 6, 1862, near Rocky Comfort, Arkansas

Died: January 3, 1913, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1901-1907

Jefferson Davis, born in Sevier County and raised in Dover and Russellville, attended the University of Arkansas and studied law at Vanderbilt University and, ultimately, Cumberland University. He served as prosecuting attorney of the Fifth Judicial District of Arkansas from 1892 to 1896, and he was elected attorney general in 1898, serving until 1900. Davis was elected Arkansas's 20th governor on September 3, 1900. He was reelected in 1902, and again in 1904, becoming the first governor to serve more than two consecutive terms. During his administration laws were enacted for segregation on streetcars, a reform school was established and the Arkansas History Commission was created. Also during his tenure, public executions were prohibited, and salaries were defined for members of the state legislature. Davis was known for his deep opposition to convict leasing, his attempts to halt construction of a new capitol building, his command of

populist rhetoric and his ability to exploit racial and class tensions in his own behalf. Davis was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1906, and served there until his death in early January 1913.

### **John Sebastian Little**

Born: March 15, 1851, in Sebastian County, Arkansas

Died: October 29, 1916, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: City Cemetery, Greenwood, Arkansas

Served: 1907

Arkansas's 21st governor was born in Jenny Lind, Sebastian County, Arkansas and attended Cane Hill College in Washington County for one term, taught school, studied law, and was admitted to the Arkansas bar in 1873. Little entered politics in 1876 when he campaigned for and won election as prosecuting attorney of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, serving until 1884. In that year he was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1884, and two years later was elected to serve on the bench of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, a position he held until 1890. In 1894, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served six terms there. In 1906, Little ran for governor.

Endorsed by outgoing governor Davis and his former colleagues in the House of Representatives, Little won handily at both primary and general elections. In his inaugural address, Little asked the Arkansas legislature for a broad program of action including trusts regulation, free school textbooks, election reforms, the suppression of vice and gambling, as well as comprehensive programs of levee-building and road improvement, plus a final end to convict leasing. Two days later, however, Little suffered a near-total mental and physical collapse. During his extended recuperation at his home in Greenwood and on the Texas gulf coast, Senate president John I. Moore initially served as acting governor; after the adjournment of the Assembly May 1907 Moore was replaced in this capacity by incoming Senate President *pro tempore* X.O. Pindall. Governor Little never recovered his health, although he spent time at hospitals in Texas and Missouri. He died in 1916 in the Arkansas State Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

### **George Washington Donaghey**

Born: July 1 1856, at Oakland, Louisiana

Died: December 15, 1937, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1909-1913

Arkansas's 22nd governor was born in northern Louisiana but was brought to Arkansas at an early age. He briefly attended the University of Arkansas, taught school, was a carpenter, and studied architecture and structural engineering, becoming proficient in both. By the mid-1890s, Donaghey had become a successful building and railroad contractor. In 1899, Donaghey was named to the newly-formed Arkansas Capitol Commission. Construction began under Donaghey's direction that summer; he was removed from the commission in 1901 but in 1903 served briefly as foreman for the project. In 1908 Donaghey successfully ran for governor on a progressive platform which included his promise to complete the Capitol, unfinished due to financial and political obstacles; he was re-elected in 1910. As governor, Donaghey strove to improve public health, education, roads, and railways and in 1911 presided over the inaugural legislative session to be held in the new state capitol. The Booneville Tuberculosis Sanitarium was created, as well as four agricultural high schools that later developed into Arkansas Tech, Arkansas State, Southern State, and the University of Arkansas at Monticello. In 1910 Donaghey campaigned alongside William Jennings

Bryan throughout the state urging voters to approve Amendment 10, a authorizing adoption of the initiative and referendum. His greatest achievement was the termination of the convict-lease system; Donaghey accomplished this in December 1912 by pardoning 360 inmates, nearly half of the penitentiary population, thus ruining the value of the leases. After leaving office Donaghey returned to construction and property management but also served on public and charitable commissions for more than two decades, leaving at his death a great legacy of public service.

### **Joseph Taylor Robinson**

Born: August 26 1872, near Lonoke, Arkansas

Died: July 14 1937, at Washington, D.C.

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1913

Joseph T. Robinson attended the University of Arkansas and earned a law degree from the University of Virginia in 1895. Robinson elected to the Arkansas House in 1894; he served one term, then returned to Lonoke to practice law. In 1902 Robinson won election to the U.S. Congress from Arkansas's Sixth Congressional District, and served until 1913. Nominated and winning election for governor in 1912, Robinson resigned his seat in Congress on January 14, 1913. He was inaugurated governor on January 16, 1913. On January 28, 1913, Robinson was elected to the U.S. Senate and continued to hold the governor's office until March 8, 1913, when he officially resigned. During his short term as governor, appropriations were granted to complete the state capitol, a state banking department was created, and a bureau of labor statistics was established. Also, the state flag was adopted, and a highway commission was created within the state land department. Robinson had a lengthy and distinguished career in the U.S. Senate. He served there until 1937, becoming Democratic majority leader in 1932, and was an early and steadfast ally of President Franklin Roosevelt. Robinson died in the midst of the controversy over Roosevelt's "court-packing" plan; paying tribute to Robinson, Roosevelt called him "a pillar of strength . . . [he] has fallen with face to the battle."

### **George Washington Hays**

Born: September 23, 1863, at Camden, Arkansas

Died: September 15, 1927, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Camden, Arkansas

Served: 1913-1917

George Washington Hays studied law at the Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia; in 1894 Hays set up his own law practice in Camden. He served as probate and county judge for Ouachita County from 1900 to 1905, and served on the bench of the 13th Judicial Circuit from 1906 to 1913. Due to the resignation of Governor Joseph T. Robinson, a special election was held and on July 23, 1913, Hays became Governor of Arkansas. In office, Hays showed little enthusiasm for reform and was accused by progressives of being susceptible to pressure from various interest groups. Nevertheless, his personal popularity and political acumen won him a second term in 1914. During his tenure, the Alexander Road Improvement Act was passed, a child labor law was enacted (though poorly enforced), and statewide prohibition became the law, after much vacillation on Hays's part. Hays vetoed a bill which would have legalized pari-mutuel betting at Hot Springs, although he initially signed the bill into law. In addition, during Hays's tenure a full-time commission for governance of the state's charitable institutions was

created, and construction on the new state capitol was declared completed. After leaving office, Hays returned to his law practice, publishing several articles in national periodicals, including justifications for the death penalty and explaining the reasons behind lynching of “low-grade negroes.” Shortly before his death in 1927, Hays supported the presidential candidacy of New York Democrat Alfred Smith in several articles, predicting that Southern states would support the Democratic nominee in order to protect their “social and racial interests.”

### **Charles Hillman Brough**

Born: July 9, 1876, at Clinton, Mississippi

Died: December 26, 1935, at Washington, D.C.

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1917-1921

Educator and orator Charles H. Brough graduated from Mississippi College in 1894 and earned a Ph.D. degree in history, economics and jurisprudence from John Hopkins University in 1898. Brough taught European and American history, economics, ethics, German, and philosophy at . Mississippi College, Hillman College, and the University of Arkansas before entering politics in 1913, briefly campaigning to replace resigned governor Joe T. Robinson. In 1915 he resigned from the University of Arkansas and began to campaign in earnest for the governorship, which he won in the following year. Under Brough’s leadership, progressive reform reached its high point in Arkansas: a state reformatory for women was founded, a girl's industrial school was established, and an illiteracy commission was created. At Brough’s urging a compulsory school-attendance law was enacted, and the Legislature offered limited financial aid to mothers with dependant children, as well as medical care for the needy. A law was passed allowing women to vote in all primary elections, and the Arkansas Corporation Commission was created. Brough acted decisively to restore order in the wake of the Elaine race riots of 1919 and created a state commission to promote inter-racial harmony. After leaving office, he worked as a Chautauqua lecturer, served as director of the State Public Information Bureau from 1925 to 1928, and chaired the Virginia-District of Columbia Boundary Commission from 1934 to 1935.

### **Thomas Chipman McRae**

Born: December 21, 1851, at Mount Holly, Arkansas

Died: June 2, 1929, at Prescott, Arkansas

Buried: De Ann Cemetery, Prescott

Served: 1921-1925

Arkansas's 26th governor earned a law degree from the Washington and Lee University in 1872 and was admitted to the Arkansas bar in 1873. He served in the Arkansas House of Representatives from 1877 to 1879 and was a U.S. Representative from Arkansas’s Third Congressional district from 1885 to 1903. From 1903 until 1920 McRae remained active in Democratic party politics while immersing himself in his law practice and banking. In 1917, McRae was a delegate to the convention which drafted a new constitution for the state, ultimately rejected by voters in 1918. In 1920, he reluctantly entered the gubernatorial race, one of nine Democrats seeking the post. On November 2 he was elected Governor and won a second term in 1922. During McRae’s first term the Legislature blocked most of his initiatives, which included a severance tax for school support, a state-directed highway construction plan, and a worker’s

compensation program. During his second term, however, McRae met with more success: a personal income-tax law was adopted, as was a school-funding plan using revenues from severance taxes and a new tobacco tax. A new highway construction program was begun, one which reformed the corrupt practices of its predecessor. Other achievements of the McRae administration include the establishment of the State Tuberculosis Sanitarium for Negroes and the creation of the office of State Geologist. After leaving office, McRae returned to the law and banking.

### **Thomas Jefferson Terral**

Born: December 21, 1882, in Union Parish, Louisiana

Died: March 9, 1946, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1925-1927

Thomas J. Terral was born Louisiana and attended the University of Kentucky; in 1910 he earned a law degree from the University of Arkansas. Terral entered politics in 1911, serving until 1915 as assistant secretary of the Arkansas Senate. Terral was deputy state superintendent of public instruction from 1912 to 1916, except during the periods in 1913 and 1915, when the general assembly was in session. He was elected secretary of state in 1916 and served until 1921. In 1920 Terral ran for governor and lost, but with a respectable showing; in 1924 he ran again and won. During his term, 11 honorary commissions were abolished and in their place was created a salaried three-member board of charities and corrections. The office of Commissioner of Insurance and Revenue, and Arkansas's first state park at Petit Jean Mountain were established. Also during Terral's administration, construction began on a new state hospital in Little Rock, and a constitutional amendment was enacted that increased the number of supreme court judges from five to seven.. He ran unsuccessfully for reelection in 1926 and subsequently returned to his law practice in Little Rock.

### **John E. Martineau**

Born: December 2, 1873, in Clay County, Missouri

Died: March 6, 1939, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1927-1928

Arkansas's 28th governor was born in Missouri but graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1896, briefly taught school and then enrolled in the University's law school at Little Rock, from which he graduated in 1899. In 1902 Martineau was elected to the Arkansas House for the first of two terms. He was appointed chancellor of the First Chancery Court in 1907 and served in that capacity for twenty years, acquiring a reputation for fairness and plain speaking. In 1924 Martineau campaigned unsuccessfully for governor; in 1926 he was successful. During his single term, the honorary governing boards for state institutions (dissolved under Terral's administration) were restored, the Confederate Pensions Board was created, and the Normal School of the Ozarks was established. The Tri-State Flood Commission was formed by Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas in response to the spring floods of 1927; Martineau was selected as its president. The Martineau Road Plan was his most lasting achievement. It authorized state aid for highway construction within city limits and bond issuance for highway construction. On March 2, 1928, Martineau resigned from the governor's office to accept the appointment to the bench of the

Federal District Court of Eastern Arkansas, where he served until his death.

### **Harvey Parnell**

Born: February 28, 1880, at Orlando, Arkansas

Died: January 16, 1936, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1928-1933

Harvey Parnell attended Warren High School and worked variously as a clerk, book-keeper, dry goods merchant and farmer before entering politics in 1919 when he began the first of his two terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives. Parnell also served in the Arkansas Senate from 1923 to 1925 and was elected lieutenant governor in 1926. On March 4, 1928, Governor John E. Martineau resigned from office to accept a federal judgeship and Parnell assumed the duties of governor. In 1928 he was elected governor in his own right and was re-elected in 1930. During his tenure, the Henderson State Teachers College in Arkadelphia was established, and revenue was used for programs to upgrade the state school system and a state highway fund was established well as the State Bureau of Commerce and Industry, but a consultant-derived plan for governmental reorganization failed to win legislative support and the Parnell administration was slow to respond to the state's Depression-induced needs; by 1932, Parnell's business-oriented style and self-help recommendations had few supporters in the Capitol or without. After leaving office, Parnell returned to his farming interests but remained in public service: he spent his remaining three years as an appraiser for the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

### **Junius Marion Futrell**

Born: August 14, 1870, at Jones Ridge, Arkansas

Died: June 20, 1955, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Linwood Cemetery, Paragould

Served: 1933-1937

Junius M. Futrell attended the University of Arkansas from 1892 to 1893, studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1913. In his early years Futrell taught school, farmed, and worked in the timber industry. In 1896 he was elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives and returned twice. He was elected clerk of the Circuit Court in 1906, and state senator in 1912, serving until 1917. In 1913 Governor Joseph T. Robinson resigned from office and Futrell, who was president of the Senate at the time, became acting governor. He served in this capacity until July 23, 1913. In 1922, he was appointed Circuit Court judge for the Second Judicial District, then served as chancellor of the 12th District from 1923 to 1933. In 1932 Futrell was elected to a full term as Governor of Arkansas, and won a second term in 1934. During his tenure, the Refunding Act was enacted, the Arkansas Prohibition Act was rescinded, and the State Planning Board was established. In addition, the Arkansas Department of Public Welfare was created, parimutuel betting on dog and horse races was legalized and two amendments to the state constitution limiting the state's power to tax were adopted. After Futrell left office, he remained in Little Rock and returned to the practice of law.

### **Carl Edward Bailey**

Born: October 8, 1894, at Bernie, Missouri

Died: October 23, 1948, at Little Rock, Arkansas



Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1937-1941

Carl Bailey, a Missouri native, attended Chillicothe Business College in 1915 but never finished due to a shortage of funds. In 1917, Bailey moved to Arkansas where he worked as a bookkeeper while studying law. In 1923 he was admitted to the Arkansas Bar. Bailey served as deputy prosecuting attorney, then prosecuting attorney from 1927 to 1935., serving until 1935. He was elected attorney general of Arkansas in 1934, and governor in 1936. He won a second term in 1938. During his tenure, the Department of Public Welfare was restructured and Arkansas qualified for full participation in all federal welfare programs. A free library system was created and a retirement system was drafted. All state-owned bridges were made toll-free, and a new agricultural experiment station was established at Batesville. Bailey ran unsuccessfully for a third term, and left office on January 14, 1941. He later served as a legislative representative of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and taught legal medicine at the University of Arkansas medical school.

### **Homer Martin Adkins**

Born: October 15, 1890, at Jacksonville, Arkansas

Died: February 26, 1964, at Malvern, Arkansas

Buried: Roselawn Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1941-1945

Arkansas's 32nd governor attended Draughon's Business College in 1908 and graduated from the Little Rock College of Pharmacy in 1911. At the age of 20, Adkins was licensed as a pharmacist, but needed special permission to practice because he was six months shy of the required age of 21. During World War I, he served in the army, was assigned to the medical corps, and later rose to the rank of captain. Adkins entered politics in 1923, when he served one term as sheriff of Pulaski County. He was appointed collector of internal revenue in 1933, and served until 1940 when he resigned to run for governor. Adkins was elected in that year and in 1942 won a second term. During his tenure, the state treasury surplus rose from \$21 million to \$45 million and the first workmen's compensation commission was appointed. The Grand River Dam in Oklahoma also was completed, which provided an enormous amount of much-needed electrical power to northeastern Arkansas. Adkins also campaigned to refinance the highway debt; Arkansas voters approved his refunding act in 1943. After leaving office Adkins was a political broker, consultant, and advisor to several politicians. In 1948, he was appointed administrator of the Arkansas Employment Security Division, and in 1956 he established a public-relations firm in Little Rock, in which he worked until shortly before his death in 1964.

### **Benjamin Travis Laney Jr.**

Born: November 25, 1896, at Jones Chapel (Cooterneck), Arkansas

Died: January 21, 1977, at Magnolia, Arkansas

Buried: Camden Memorial Cemetery, Camden

Served: 1945-1949

"Business Ben" Laney, born in 1896, attended the public schools in Ouachita County. In 1918 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served until the Armistice; he earned a degree from the Arkansas Teachers College in 1924 and took graduate courses from the University of Utah. Laney owned a drugstore in Conway, Arkansas, traded in farm real estate and entered the oil business when oil was discovered on his family farm near Camden, Arkansas. He entered politics in 1935 when

elected Mayor of Camden, serving until 1939. Laney ran for governor and won both the 1944 and 1946 elections. In his first campaign, Laney called for “efficiency, economy and consolidation” in state government; he followed through by promoting the ultimately adopted Revenue Stabilization Act which proved to be his greatest achievement. While Laney was governor, the Arkansas Resources and Development Commission was formed and the Corporation and Utilities Commissions were consolidated into the Public Service Commission. Also during his tenure, construction of both the War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock and the governor's mansion was authorized by the Assembly. Laney was a consistent supporter of racial segregation and eventually became identified with the “Dixiecrat” states’ rights movement but, notably, during Laney’s administration the University of Arkansas became the first historically white southern public university to admit African-American students. Laney did not seek reelection for a third term and left office on January 11, 1949. He ran, unsuccessfully, in the 1950 gubernatorial race but remained active in public affairs, serving as a delegate to the 1969 Arkansas Constitutional Convention.

### **Sidney Sanders McMath**

Born: June 14, 1912, in Columbia County, Arkansas

Died: October 4, 2003, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Pinecrest Memorial Park, Little Rock

Served: 1949-1953

Sid McMath graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1936 with a law degree. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was awarded both the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit awards. McMath entered politics in 1947 and served one term as prosecuting attorney for Garland and Montgomery counties. In November 1948, McMath was elected governor and was reelected in 1950. During his tenure, general-obligation bonds were authorized for the construction and maintenance of highways and bridges and a new medical center in Little Rock was planned. The state's mental health system was revised, the university's medical school was upgraded, and the minimum wage increased. McMath set a progressive tone in race relations by supporting a state anti-lynching law, sought repeal of the poll tax and appointed a number of blacks to previously all-white boards and commissions. During his second term McMath’s enemies suggested that the governor was connected with irregularities in the management of the state’s highways department. These charges were never proved but they had their effect: McMath lost his bid for re-election to a third term in 1952. He subsequently ran for the U.S. Senate in 1954, and again for governor in 1962, but was defeated in both races. He returned to his law practice and was elected president of the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 1976. His death in 2003 coincided with the publication of his memoir, *Promises to Keep*.

### **Francis Adams Cherry**

Born: September 5, 1908, at Fort Worth, Texas

Died: July 15, 1965, at Jonesboro, Arkansas (?)

Buried: Oaklawn Cemetery, Jonesboro

Served: 1953-1955

Arkansas's 35th governor was born in Fort Worth, Texas, moved with his family to Enid, Oklahoma, attended Oklahoma A& M College, and graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1936, earning a law degree. Cherry was appointed U.S. Commissioner for the Jonesboro division

of the Eastern district in 1939, and next was named referee for the workmen's compensation commission. Cherry entered politics in 1942, when he was elected chancellor and probate judge of the 12th Chancery District. During World War II, Cherry waived his judicial immunity and applied for a naval commission. After serving two years in the navy, he resumed his duties as chancellor in 1946 and was reelected to the position in 1948. Cherry was elected Governor of Arkansas on November 4, 1952 after a campaign in which he effectively used the medium of radio to raise both his visibility and campaign funds. During his tenure, a new department of finance and administration was formed and reforms were made in the highway commission. Cherry advocated industrial development, and sent representatives to other states to promote the use of Arkansas' raw materials. He ran unsuccessfully for a second term. After leaving office in 1955, Cherry was appointed to the federal Subversive Activities Control Board and was named its chairman in 1963. Governor Cherry died in July 1965 after two years of declining health.

### **Orval Eugene Faubus**

Born: January 7, 1910, near Combs, Arkansas

Died: December 14, 1994, at Conway, Arkansas

Buried: Orval E. Faubus Memorial Gardens, Combs

Served: 1955-1967

Orval Faubus was born in 1910. Literally raised in a log cabin and educated in one-and-two-room schools, Faubus attended Commonwealth College at Mena and worked as an itinerant farmer, lumberjack and schoolteacher before enlisting in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1946. After the war, Faubus served on the Arkansas State Highway Commission and as director of highways from 1952 to 1953. He was postmaster at Huntsville from 1946 to 1947 and from 1953 to 1954. Elected to the governorship in 1954 after a runoff, Governor Faubus initially pursued a moderately progressive course in office but in 1956, to combat his political opponents who were staunch segregationists, he adopted a hard-line segregationist stance. In 1957, Governor Faubus gained national attention when he called out the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, but he was eventually forced to withdraw the Guard. After threats of rioting, President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent U.S. troops to Little Rock and put the National Guard under federal command to ensure the integration of the school. Faubus's political expediency resulted in his repeated re-election as governor but also prevented him from moving into the national political arena. During his six, two-year terms, he served on the National Governors' Conference Executive Committee from 1957 to 1958 and chaired the Southern Governors' Conference from 1962 to 1963). In 1970, 1974, and 1986 he sought reelection as governor of Arkansas but was unsuccessful in each attempt at a political comeback, the last time losing to Bill Clinton.

### **Winthrop Rockefeller**

Born: May 1, 1912, at New York City, New York

Died: February 22, 1973, at Palm Springs, California

Buried: Winrock Farm, Petit Jean Mountain

Served: 1967-1971

"The Arkansas Rockefeller" attended Yale University from 1931 to 1934. In 1941 he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a private soldier, later earning his officer's commission. He served in the Pacific

Theater during World War II, earning the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Purple Heart. After the war, Rockefeller involved himself in his family's businesses and various philanthropies before moving to Arkansas in 1953. Rockefeller established himself on over 900 acres atop Petit Jean Mountain near Morrilton where his Winrock Farms operation concentrated on purebred Santa Gertrudis cattle, feed grains, rice and hay. In 1955 he became the first chairman of the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission. During his nine-year leadership of the commission, Arkansas led all states in attracting new industry. Rockefeller's frustration with Arkansas's effective one-party system led him into politics; his popularity, which crossed party lines, made him the first viable Republican gubernatorial hopeful since Reconstruction. In 1964 , Rockefeller ran for governor, only to lose to Orval Faubus. He ran again in 1966, this time successfully, and won a second term in 1968. As governor, Rockefeller was an advocate for human rights, government reform, cultural development, and education. His attempts to reform Arkansas's notorious prison system met with much criticism, but at his direction much of Hot Springs's illegal gambling was halted, and a number of measures including a general minimum-wage law, a freedom-of-information act and banking reforms were enacted. Rockefeller's instinctive racial progressivism led to the appointment of increased numbers of African-Americans to boards and commissions, plus increased minority hiring in state jobs. Rockefeller failed in his attempt to win a third term in 1970 but continued to be active in Republican party matters and public affairs until his death in 1973.

### **Dale Leon Bumpers**

Born: August 12, 1925, at Charleston, Arkansas

Died: n/a

Buried: n/a

Served: 1971-1975

Dale Bumpers briefly attended the University of Arkansas before enlisting in the U.S. Marines during World War II. After the war Bumpers finished his education at the University of Arkansas and Northwestern University Law School. Early in his career he practiced as a small-town attorney, owned and operated a hardware store, raised cattle, and became active in community affairs. He entered politics via service on the Franklin County and Charleston school boards, later serving as Charleston City Attorney and in 1968 Special Justice of Arkansas Supreme Court. He ran for Governor in 1970, one of seven Democratic primary candidates including former governor Faubus and Attorney-General Joe Purcell. Finishing second to Faubus in the primary, Bumpers bested the long-serving governor in the runoff primary and went on to handily defeat Winthrop Rockefeller in the general election. Bumpers repeated his success in 1972. During his first term, Dale Bumpers successfully guided a government-reorganization program through the legislature, won a revision of the state income-tax, increased teacher salaries, oversaw the creation of a consumer-fraud division in the Attorney-General's office, and saw the legislature approve an expansion of the state parks system. Second-term victories included increased aid to education, construction programs for the state's colleges and elimination of the trustee system in the state prison system. In 1974, Bumpers ran for and won the U.S. Senate seat held by J. William Fulbright, beginning over two decades' service in that body.

### **David Hampton Pryor**

Born: August 29, 1934, at Camden, Arkansas

Died: n/a

Buried: n/a

Served: 1975-1979

David Pryor received a B.A. in political science from the University of Arkansas in 1957 and a LL.B. from the University of Arkansas School of Law in 1964. A newspaperman from 1957 until 1961, Pryor's political career began in the Arkansas House of Representatives where he served three terms, 1961 to 1966. He was then elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served from 1967 to 1972. He was elected Governor in 1974 and served two terms. During his tenure, Pryor championed reform of the 1874 Constitution and was instrumental in the calling of two conventions to revise the state's fundamental document. Pryor's administrations were noted for the quality of his appointments to boards and commissions, including numerous women and African-Americans, and by his devotion to fiscal restraint. His legislative programs included creation of the Local Services and Natural and Cultural Heritage Departments, education aid for the elderly and the ultimately defeated "Arkansas Plan" which would have shifted much taxation responsibility from state to local government. In 1978 Pryor successfully sought a seat in the U.S. Senate, where he served until 1996. Most recently, Pryor has served a two-year term as the Director of the Institute of Politics at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and in late 2003 was tapped as the first dean of the University of Arkansas's Clinton School of Public Service.

#### **William Jefferson Clinton**

Born: August 19, 1946, at Hope, Arkansas

Died: n/a

Buried: n/a

Served: 1979-1981; 1983-1992

William J. Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas and earned a bachelor's degree in international affairs in 1968 from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. After graduating from Yale Law School in 1973, he joined the faculty of the University of Arkansas School of Law and practiced in Fayetteville. He was elected attorney general in 1976 and in 1978 won his first bid for governor, becoming the state's second-youngest governor. Clinton's first administration advanced small business development, improved teacher standards and road construction but suffered from the effects of regional and national economic woes, natural disasters and bad publicity stemming from an influx of Cuban refugees and increased vehicle-licensing fees. In 1980 Clinton's re-election bid failed but in 1982 he regained the governor's office, to which he was re-elected in 1984, 1986, and 1990. Notable initiatives of Clinton's second tenure include education reform, multilevel economic development and adoption of state code of ethics. He served as chair of the Democratic Leadership Council, the Democratic Governors' Association, and the Education Commission of the States. In 1986 he served as chair of the Southern Growth Policies Board and of the National Governors Association from 1986 to 1987. In October 1991, Governor Clinton resigned his office in order to pursue, successfully, the Democratic party's nomination for president.

#### **Frank Durward White**

Born: June 4, 1933, at Texarkana, Texas

Died: May 21, 2003, at Little Rock, Arkansas

Buried: Mount Holly Cemetery, Little Rock

Served: 1981-1993

Frank D. White was born Durward Frank Kyle on June 3, 1933. His mother remarried and his stepfather, Frank White, adopted him. He graduated from the New Mexico Military Institute and received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy in 1952. After graduation from Annapolis in 1956, White took a commission in the U.S. Air Force, accumulating more than 1,800 flying hours as a captain. He entered business in Little Rock in 1961 with the Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith securities brokerage; White later was affiliated with Little Rock banking concerns. He was appointed director of the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission in 1975, a position he held until 1977. Elected governor in 1980, White's friendly personality and self-deprecating style won him much personal popularity but his legislative program was modest and won little support in the Legislature or around Arkansas. During his tenure, he signed a measure approved by the legislature requiring Arkansas teachers to include "creation science" in the curriculum if the theory of evolution was also taught. The law was later struck down as unconstitutional by a federal judge but drew national attention. White's efforts to reform utility regulation were overshadowed by charges of coziness with utility company executives. Frank White lost his 1982 bid for re-election, and returned to commercial banking. Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee named White his state banking commissioner in July 1998. Frank White passed away on May 21, 2003 and was laid to rest after lying in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

#### **James Guy Tucker Jr.**

Born: June 13, 1943, at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Died: n/a

Buried: n/a

Served: 1991-1996

James Guy Tucker Jr. was born in Oklahoma City and was raised in Arkansas. He received a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University in 1964 and a law degree from the University of Arkansas in 1968. He was a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and was a civilian correspondent in South Vietnam in 1965 and 1967. He served as a prosecuting attorney; state attorney general; and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served on the Ways and Means Committee. He was elected lieutenant governor in 1990; he resigned from his position as a senior partner in his law firm to become acting governor in October 1991, when then-Governor Bill Clinton began his campaign for President. He served the balance of the Clinton term and then was elected to a four-year term in November 1994. As governor, Tucker pursued a course of economy, cutting agency budgets and funneling saved monies into education, but called a special session of the Legislature in August 1994 to deal with the rising juvenile crime rate. Over thirty measures from this session were signed into law, affecting most aspects of the juvenile justice system. In 1995, however, Tucker's political fortunes began to fail. An initiative on his part to improve roads was defeated. This was followed by his indictment as part of the expanding Whitewater investigation surrounding President Clinton. Tucker's July 1996 conviction was followed by his resignation. Though he paid a large fine, Tucker would spend little actual time in prison because of fragile health. He maintains a residence in Little Rock and is engaged in various business ventures.

#### **Michael Huckabee**

Born: August 24, 1955, at Hope, Arkansas

Died: n/a

Buried: n/a

Served: 1996-present

Hope, Arkansas native Mike Huckabee graduated from Ouachita Baptist University. An ordained Baptist minister who occupied the pulpit of Beech Street Baptist Church in Texarkana, Arkansas, he served as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention and challenged veteran U.S. Senator Dale Bumpers in the election of 1992. Although Bumpers won re-election, Huckabee polled about 40 percent of the vote. A special election was called in 1993 to choose a lieutenant governor; Huckabee defeated the Democratic nominee. As lieutenant governor he served as acting governor on several occasions. He became Governor of Arkansas in July 1996 when his predecessor resigned. Huckabee was elected to a full four-year term as governor in 1998 and was reelected in November 2002. As governor, he has advocated the reorganization of state government and various education reforms in Arkansas that significantly expanded the availability of college scholarships, increased the number of charter schools, and established new approaches to workforce education. His Smart Start and Smart Step initiatives placed a heavy emphasis on reading and mathematics for students from kindergarten through the eighth grade, and since their creation student scores on standardized tests have risen steadily. Huckabee has also advocated improved health care for children, a sales-tax increase to fund state park improvements and bond issue to rebuild and improve the state's interstate highways. The governor is state cochairman of the Delta Regional Authority, established by Congress to help alleviate poverty and stimulate economic growth in impoverished counties in the eight member states. He also chairs the Southern Regional Education Board, the nation's first interstate compact for education. He is a former chairman of the Southern Governors' Association and the Southern International Trade Council.